

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OC-05 CCO-00 ACDA-05 OMB-01

SCCT-01 IO-11 AID-05 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 /104 W

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R 051027Z HAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9663

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, TH

SUBJECT: LABOR SCENE UNIMPROVED

REF: BANGKOK 2924

1. ALTHOUGH THE STRIKE OF EMPLOYEES AT THE FREIGHT SECTION OF THE EXPRESS TRANSPORT ORGANIZATION (ETO) HAS ENDED, THE OTHER STRIKES REPORTED IN REFTEL REMAIN UNRESOLVED.
2. AT THE MOMENT ANGRY DOCK WORKERS ARE ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE THEIR LEADER, CONTROVERSIAL WICHIAN SIWICHIAN, WHO A FEW MONTHS AGO SECCESFULLY DEFENDED HIMSELF AGAINST CHARGES OF MISUSING UNION FUNDS, TO DETERMINE IF HE HAS IN FACT REACHED AN AGREE-MENT WITH SHIPPING AGENTS PROVIDING FOR A FIVE BAHT PER DAY INCREASE. IF UNION MEMBERSHIP IS CONVINCED WICHIAN HAS SOLD OUT IN FACE OF MANAGEMENT AND/OR GOVERNMENT PRESSURE, THE CHANCE OF REACHING A QUICK AND LASTING SETTLEMENT FADES ALONG WITH WICHAN'S ROLE IN UNION AFFAIRS.
3. STRIKERS AT THE NONTHABURI GUNNY BAG FACTORY INSIST THEY WILL CONTINUE THEIR DEMANDS FOR DISMISSAL OF THE PLANT MANAGER AND AN INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION AT THE

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PLANT, WHILE THE RTG INSISTS IT WILL SELL OR RENT THE
PLANT IF IT CANNOT SHOW A PROFIT.

4. COMMENT: UNION LEADERS INVOLVED IN THE CEMENT AND
GUNNY-BAG FACTORY STRIKES CLAIM THE GOVERNMENT IS PRESSURING
UNION LEADERSHIP TO REACH A SETTLEMENT. IF THE SAME PRESSURES
ARE BEING APPLIED TO MANAGEMENT, WEEKEND MEETINGS MAY BE
SUCCESSFUL IN RESOLVING SOME OF THE DISPUTES.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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